MAINE PE NEWS

December 2014

State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers Volume 14, Issue 2

Board Members:

- Mandy Holway Olver, PE, Chair
- Clifton W. Greim, PE, Vice-Chair
- George W. Ames, PE, Complaint Officer
- Lawrence E. Bartlett, PE
- Joyce Noel Taylor, PE
- John Guimond, Public Member
- Knud E. Hermansen, PE, PLS, Esq., PhD

Inside this issue:

NCEES FE & PE Exam Results	**2**
Complaint Update	**3**
Maine Engineering Societies	**4**
NCEES Exam Changes	**5**
4-YR Experience prior to PE Exam	**6**
Speak Up for Engineering	**7**
Upcoming NCEES Exam Dates	**8**

Thoughts While Driving . . .

By Mandy Holway Olver

One of the less pleasant duties of the PE Board is addressing complaints made to the Board. Often, these complaints are by licensed Professional Engineers concerned about the conduct of others who are either Professional Engineers licensed in the State of Maine, or unlicensed individuals who may be offering what could be considered engineering services.

As individual members of the Board, we are not in a position to discuss such complaints when contacted by friends or colleagues. We instead refer these issues either to the Board office or directly to the Complaint Officer, George Ames, PE. Mr. Ames, along with Executive Director David Jackson and Assistant Attorney General Judith Peters, make up the Complaint Committee, which has the responsibility to investigate complaints and prepare them for presentation to the Board.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank these folks for their many hours of service in investigating and addressing complaints. I would also like to take a moment to ask for your help as a licensed PE should you encounter an issue which you think that the Board should address.

As a Board, we can only act on complaints that are brought to us as a written concern signed by a complainant. We do not travel the state seeking out violators, but can review and act on complaints brought to us by others. We also cannot address nonspecific or hypothetical issues, even if we might agree that the subject of the concern is valid.

The Code of Ethics states the following in reference to possible complaints, 'Licensees having knowledge of any possible violations of the Act, the Rules, or the Code of Ethics shall notify the Board and provide all information and assistance necessary in order for the Board to render a final disposition of the matter.' While reporting violations or addressing complaints is not an enjoyable duty, it is not only a responsibility of the PE Board but of all Licensed Maine Professional Engineers to police ourselves and adhere to the Statute and Board Rules.

We would ask that if you have a concern regarding potential violations that you please contact the Board office and be willing to provide specifics regarding the matter.

Member Boards Remove MS 2020 Language from Model Law

During the Annual Meeting held August 20-23 in Seattle, Washington, the PE and PS Board delegates voted to remove language from the Model Law that would have required a Masters Degree or 30 additional engineering credits beyond the BS for initial PE licensure beginning in the year 2020. Although the language was originally inserted into the Model Law in 2006, no state had made any progress toward implementation. After significant debate including counter proposals that called for simply postponing the implementation deadline, the MS 2020 language was removed in its entirety. Delegates voted instead to create an official NCEES position statement in support of additional engineering education beyond a bachelor's degree. A committee was assigned the task of drafting language for submission to the Annual Meeting in 2015.

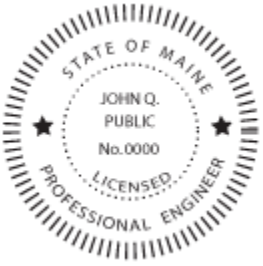
FE Exam Results January – June 2014

These are the names of the individuals who successfully passed the FE exam between January 1, 2014 and June 30, 2014. Because the FE exam is now exclusively a computer-based examination, there are no longer fixed testing times. Each candidate sets a testing time compatible with their schedule and the availability of seats at the testing center.

Timothy Aguilar
Timothy Albert
Ashley Ballanger
Ariel Boulette
William Brewster
Michael Brown
Alex Calbick
Andrew Cote
Patrick Dean
Nicklaus Deblois
Tricia Evangelista
Carmen Forzetting
Angela Fouquette
Donald Gjeta
Evan Goodwin
Charles Guy
Marzieh Hajiaghamemar
William Long
Jessica Mitaly
Benjamin Pomeroy
Benjamin Russell
Morteza Seidi
Jaime Wallace
Daniel Whitney
Paul Wilson
Richard Zebiak

Congratulations to all who passed the April 2014 PE Exam

Sonia Barrantes
Heidi Bunn
Eric Carlson
Nicholas Champagne
Philip Daigle
Brett Doyon
Michael Dufresne
Norman Gosselin
Lee Griffin
Garrett Gustafson
Nathan Gustafson
Andrew Hallett
Christopher Helstrom
Brett Holmes
Tyler Jolicoeur
Patrick Kertes
Jonathan Langille
Donald LeBlanc
Adam Lyons
Alec Mackenzie
Dan Marks
Jacob Marquis
Joshua Martin-McNaughton
James McCarthy
Mahdi Mohammadi
Mitchell Pac
Erik Peil
Sarah Peters
Brian Reeves
Ovid Rochon
Charles Rollins
Nathan Tobey
Andrew Weston
Kendra Wolfel



Approved seal format

Volume 14, Issue 2

Complaint Update by George W. Ames, PE, Complaint Officer

The following complaints have recently been resolved by the Board:

E10-003 - Complainant alleged that Licensee took proprietary client and engineering information off Complainant firm's computer. Licensee provided sufficient information that the information taken was not proprietary. Board dismissed citing no evidence of a violation of Board Statute or Rule.

E12-003 Paul B. Cross, PE - The Board filed a complaint against Licensee for failing to comply with requirements of the PDH program. Licensee ultimately provided documentation establishing that he had completed the PDHs claimed. The Board dismissed the complaint with a Letter of Guidance that will remain on file for ten years.

E13-002 Patrick Convery, PE - Complainant alleged in relevant part that Licensee failed to properly stamp professional engineering plans relating to gas pipeline installations. Licensee admitted to the violation of Board Rule and entered into a Consent Agreement by which he accepted a formal reprimand and agreed to pay a fine of $500 as sanctions.

E13-003 Lawrence Fisher, PE - The Board filed a complaint after Licensee reported discipline for improper engineering practice in other jurisdictions. The Board preliminarily denied Licensee's application to renew his Maine license based upon the conduct. The Licensee did not appeal the preliminary denial and is no longer licensed in Maine.

E14-001 Theodore Ocana, PE - Complainant alleged that Licensee performed an incompetent home inspection. Home inspections do not require a license, but Licensee used his PE credentials in providing this service. Board dismissed the complaint with a Letter of Guidance regarding the proper use of the professional engineer credential that will remain on file for ten years.

E14-002 - Complainant alleged Licensee allowed a contractor to deviate from municipal code requirements and violate engineering standards in the course of a road building project. Board dismissed complaint citing no evidence of a violation of Board Statute or Rule.

Maine Engineering Societies

Maine Association of Engineers -- www.maineengineers.org

Maine Association of Engineers, Inc., University of Maine, 5711 Boardman Hall - Room 119, Orono, Maine 04469-5711

The Maine Association of Engineers is the oldest of all the engineering societies in the state and was organized in 1911 as the *Maine Society of Civil Engineers*. Despite the original name, the MSCE accommodated members from all engineering professions. Engineers, architects, surveyors, contractors and anybody associated with the many fields of engineering were eligible for membership in the organization. The name of the MSCE was changed to the ***Maine Association of Engineers*** in 1920. The current name better reflects the wide diversity of membership.

Maine Section, American Society of Civil Engineers -- www.maineasce.org

Maine Section ASCE, PO Box 66752 , Falmouth, Maine 04105

Read more at: http://www.maineasce.org/maine.htm#ixzz2Shw0zlA4

The Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers -- www.sname.org/NewEnglandSection/Home

The Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers, 601 Pavonia Avenue, Jersey City, NJ 07306

Telephone (201)798-4800

The Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers was organized in 1893, to advance the art, science, and practice of naval architecture, shipbuilding and marine engineering. The New England Section was inaugurated on June 12, 1944. They comprise members in the States of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island.

Maine Society of Professional Engineers (MSPE) -- www.mespe.org/

MeSPE promotes and advocates professional licensure in all engineering disciplines. Members enjoy discounts to Symposium events; opportunities to interact with colleagues throughout the state; and contribute to the education and development of students interested in math, science, and engineering.

Structural Engineers Association of Maine (SEAM) -- www.seam.org

The Structural Engineers Association of Maine (SEAM) was formed in 1991 to promote the professional growth of structural engineers practicing in Maine.

Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) -- www.ieee.org

Maine section homepage -- www.ewh.ieee.org/r1/maine/me_ieee.html

IEEE is the world's largest professional association dedicated to advancing technological innovation and excellence for the benefit of humanity. IEEE and its members inspire a global community through IEEE's highly cited publications, conferences, technology standards, and professional and educational activities.

IEEE, pronounced "Eye-triple-E," stands for the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. The association is chartered under this name and it is the full legal name.

Society of Women Engineers -- www.swe.org/regionf/

The Society of Women Engineers, founded in 1950, is a non-profit educational and service organization. SWE is the driving force that establishes engineering as a highly desirable career aspiration for women. SWE empowers women to succeed and advance in those aspirations and be recognized for their life-changing contributions and achievements as engineers and leaders.

Region F -- The New England region of SWE covers Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island and eastern New York. Region F has over 830 professional members from 8 different sections and almost 1000 collegiate members at 35 colleges and universities.

Volume 14, Issue 2

NCEES Updates Specifications for PE Civil Exam

NCEES has introduced new specifications for its PE Civil exam, effective with the April 2015 exam administration. Specifications have been updated for all five of the PE Civil exam module options: Construction, Geotechnical, Structural, Transportation, and Water Resources and Environmental.

Exam specifications indicate knowledge areas to be tested and their relative weights of emphasis. As the developer of the exams used for engineering licensure in the United States, NCEES periodically conducts surveys of licensed engineers working in industry, government, private practice, and academia to gather information about the knowledge and skills required of professionals in a particular discipline. NCEES uses the results to update its exam specifications.

"Our licensing exams need to reflect current professional practice, and these surveys help us determine what an engineer intern with four years of experience should be expected to know to protect the public," said Tim Miller, P.E, the director of exam services at NCEES. The new specifications are available online at ncees.org. Updated practice exams are also available.

Notice of Future Changes to NCEES Exams and Supporting Materials

April 2015 Exam Changes

The following changes are in place for the April 2015 exam administration.

Structural Exam (16 hours) — The 16-hour Structural exam design standards have been revised for April 2015. The standards are posted on the NCEES website.

PE Civil — The PE Civil exam has new specifications starting in April 2015. There are also new design standards for the Civil Construction, Geotechnical, Structural, and Transportation modules starting in April 2015. The specifications and standards are posted on the NCEES website.

PE Agricultural and Biological Engineering — The PE Agricultural and Biological Engineering exam has new specifications starting in April 2015. The specifications are posted on the NCEES website. The PE Agricultural exam was renamed the PE Agricultural and Biological Engineering exam and will hereafter be administered in the spring beginning in April 2015.

October 2015 Exam Changes

PE Metallurgical and Materials — The PE Metallurgical and Materials exam will have revised specifications beginning in October 2015. The specifications are available for review and downloading on the NCEES website.

Four-year Experience Prior to PE Exam voted out at NCEES Annual Meeting

NCEES member boards voted to remove the requirement from the Model Law that candidates for the PE must gain four years of progressive engineering experience before sitting for the PE exam.

Delegates voted in 2013 to remove the prerequisite, and a committee brought back language this year to effect the change. The Council voted to approve the amendments proposed by the committee.

NCEES CEO Jerry Carter pointed out that this change does not alter or impact the requirements for licensure. "The Model Law still requires four years of engineering experience for licensure. You don't have to meet the experience requirement before you can take the PE exam, but you do have to earn this experience, along with meeting the education and exam requirements, before you can become licensed as a professional engineer."

The Model Law does not govern, so in order for this change to take effect in any state, it must be adopted by statute or rule change at the state level. "Each jurisdiction will decide whether to remove the prerequisite aspect of the experience requirement from its laws or policies, and some have already done so," Carter explained.

Current Maine statute requires the completion of four years of experience prior to sitting for the PE exam.

Some PEs Have Difficulty Tracking PDH Courses

We sometimes hear that Licensees have a difficult time keeping track of their PDH records. During recent audits, we found that some Licensees did not keep adequate records and were unprepared to respond to the audit in a timely manner.

The audit process is stressful enough without the added delay, frustration and possible sanctions that come from being unable to locate PDH records.

Issues raised by Licensees included: poor personal recordkeeping; lack of documentation from PDH providers; loss of certificates by the Licensee or staff or during an office move; and a lack of understanding of PDH requirements by Licensees or assigned staff.

Ongoing discussions about a national PDH database indicate that recordkeeping problems exist nationwide. Until a better system is developed, each Licensee is responsible for obtaining and maintaining records sufficient to support their attendance at PDH courses, and cannot delegate that responsibility to someone else. The key is to keep your system simple and accessible.

We often suggest that Licensees maintain a paper or electronic file right at their desk into which they place or scan all PDH logs, certificates, emails, receipts and other documentation, so when they are audited, all of the necessary documentation will be at hand. It is also easy to grab and go or email to yourself if you move your office or change jobs.

If you have questions about the PDH requirements or about documentation, please feel free to contact the office. We are happy to assist you in making sure you obtain and maintain appropriate documentation to support the PDH courses claimed on your logs.

A Brief Outline About How Complaints Work

When the Board receives a written, signed complaint against a Licensee, it is obligated by statute to investigate. The Board sends a copy of the Complaint with any accompanying documentation to the Licensee. The Licensee has thirty days to respond. The Licensee's response is sent to the Complainant, and any additional information submitted by the Complainant is sent to the Licensee. The Complaint Committee, made up of the Complaint Officer, Executive Director and Assistant Attorney General, then reviews the complaint, seeks any additional information necessary to make a determination, and recommends a disposition. The Complaint Officer then prepares the Complaint for presentation to the Board.

The Board hears the factual elements of the Complaint without any information identifying the Licensee or Complainant. The Board then determines if there was a violation of the Board statute, Rules or Code of Ethics. If no violation is found, the Complaint is dismissed. If the Board has no jurisdiction over the Complaint, it is dismissed and may be referred to another regulatory board or the Office of the Attorney General for further investigation. If there is a violation, but the Board feels it does not rise to a level that requires discipline, a Letter of Guidance may be issued, instructing the Licensee on a "best practice" response. If the Board finds a violation worthy of discipline, it can offer a Consent Agreement, which is a contract between the Licensee, the Board and the Office of the Attorney General to resolve the Complaint without further disciplinary proceedings. As a final disposition, a Consent Agreement is public, and it is not subject to appeal. If no agreement is reached, the Board can hold a disciplinary hearing, which is the due process required before taking action against a license, such as imposing conditions, suspension or revocation. The Licensee has rights that are explained during the process, including the right to a hearing and to appeal. Licensees can always consult with an attorney at any point in the process. Final results of disciplinary actions are public record, and may be published.

Speak Up to Promote Engineering and PE Licensure

It is an absolute delight to watch when someone has an "Aha!" moment when the switch flips and they see a whole world of possibility open up to them. Anyone who has participated in Engineers Week or a similar event can see that kids love engineering. They love putting their minds and hands to work in designing, building, and yes, sometimes even destroying things.

There are several programs that can connect you with kids to help get them excited about the field of professional engineering. Let's face it -- no one is a better advocate of PE licensure than a licensed PE. You have the education, background, training and experience to really enlighten others about the benefits and purposes of professional engineering licensure.

There are local schools, scout troops, cub packs, and youth groups across your state that are full of kids who would love to hear about your interesting experiences as a licensed professional engineer. Or, if you prefer a more hands-on approach, many of these same groups sponsor math clubs, robotics teams, or other opportunities to interact with and inspire young minds.

Volunteer individually or through a professional society to spend time with young people and share why you became an engineer, what you love about your profession, and how your work protects the safety of and benefits the public.

NCEES has prepared a series of excellent presentations, called "Speakers Kits," to help PEs speak to a group. You can download them from the NCEES website: http://ncees.org/licensure/outreach/speakers-kit/download-your-speakers-kit/.

You can also sign up for the NCEES Speaker's Link program so people looking for a volunteer speaker in your area know you are available and can connect with you.

If you are available to speak to Boy Scout troops or Cub Scout packs or to work as an engineering merit badge counselor for Scout troops in your area, go to www.scouting.org for training and sign up information. Girl Scouts have a whole program called "Imagine Engineering" that showcases the engineering profession and mentors young women. For more on that program go to: www.girlscouts.org.

There are also some more competitive programs. You can get involved in MATHCOUNTS at http://www.mathcounts.org/ to volunteer in a program designed to help middle school kids overcome a fear of math and open up whole new vistas for themselves.

Also in the competitive arena, FIRST LEGO League at Maine Robotics gets a lot of attention: http://www.mainerobotics.org/first-lego-league.html.

So get involved. In addition to inspiring young people to seek out one of the most challenging and rewarding professions, you may find that you come away with a renewed energy about your profession as well.

STATE BOARD OF LICENSURE FOR
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS
92 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333-0092

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Find us on the web!

www.maine.gov/professionalengineers

State Board of Licensure
For Professional Engineers

92 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0092

Phone: 207-287-3236
Fax: 207-287-3239
E-mail: professional.engineers@maine.gov

Upcoming NCEES Exam Dates 2015/2016

Year		PE	SE Vertical	SE Lateral
2015	Spring	Apr 17	Apr 17	Apr 18
2015	Fall	Oct 30	Oct 30	Oct 31
2016	Spring	Apr 15	Apr 15	Apr 16
2016	Fall	Oct 28	Oct 28	Oct 29

All PE exams are offered twice a year except for the following:

PE exams offered in April only
Agricultural and Biological Engineering
Architectural Engineering
Industrial Engineering
Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering
Software Engineering

PE exams offered in October only
Control Systems Engineering
Fire Protection Engineering
Metallurgical and Materials Engineering
Mining and Mineral Processing Engineering
Nuclear Engineering
Petroleum Engineering